



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

1839. June. 103-

INTERESTING
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF
DISTINGUISHED MEN.

FOR THE
INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

PART FIRST.

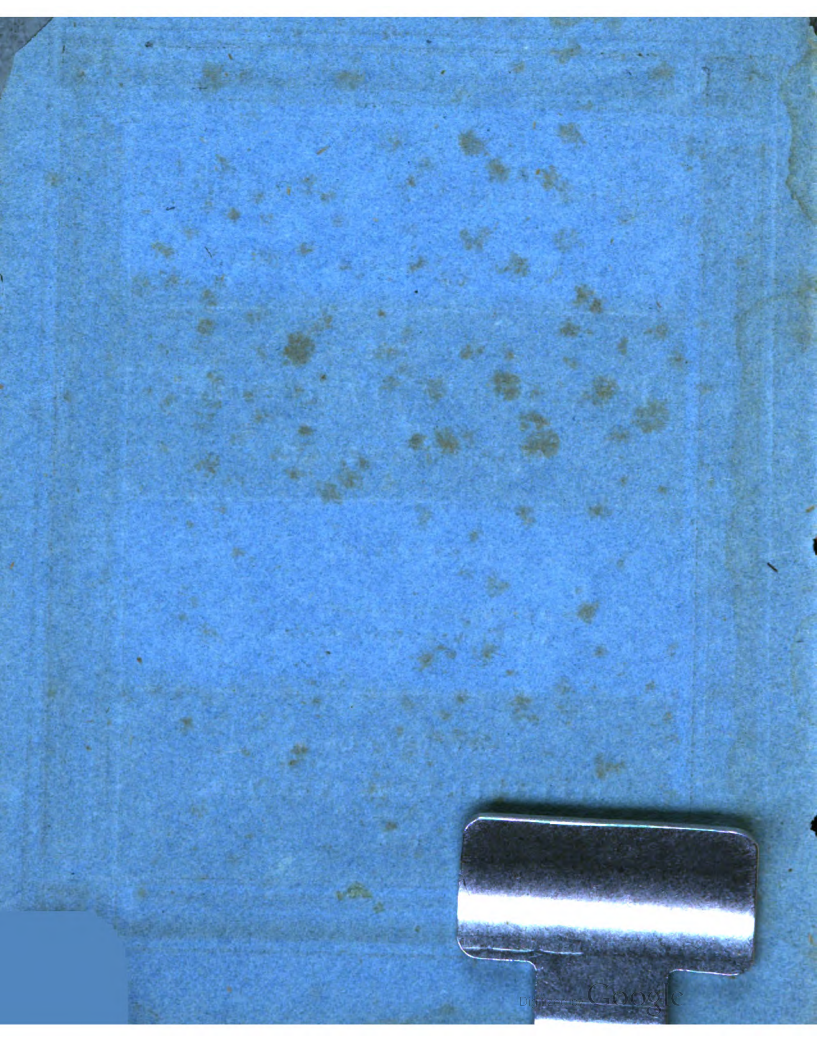
A pleasing truth it is to know,
What man *has done*, that man *can do*.

HARTFORD: CONN.

PUBLISHED BY L. STEBBINS.

1839.

E 220
9 B I



INTERESTING
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF
DISTINGUISHED MEN.

FOR THE
INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

PART FIRST.

A pleasing truth it is to know,
What man *has done*, that man *can do*.

HARTFORD: Conn.
PUBLISHED BY L. STEBBINS

1839.

INTERESTING

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES



OF

DISTINGUISHED MEN.

ADAM was the first Man. He was created 4004 years before the Christian Era, and 1656 years before the Flood; and died at the age of 930 years—726 before the Flood. He was created pure and holy in the image of God, and was placed in the beautiful "Garden of Eden;" but he transgressed the commands of his Maker, and was sent forth from the garden to till the ground from whence he was taken. He lived to see his children, and children's children, to Lamech, the ninth in descent from him.

METHUSELAH was born 687 years after Adam. He died in the year of the Flood—in the 1656th year of the world, aged 969 years. He attained a greater age than any other man of whom we have any record; and hence arose the saying, "As old as Methuselah." He was a contemporary of Adam for 243 years, and of Shem for 100 years; so that he might receive from Adam, and communicate to Shem, the earliest history of the world. He lived to witness the death of all his ancestors.

NOAH was born 600 years before the Flood, and died 350 after the Flood—two years before the birth of Abraham. "He was a just man, and perfect in his generations," and "walked with God." By Divine command, he prepared an Ark for the preservation of himself and family from the Flood which God brought upon the earth, for the wickedness of man. He was a contemporary of Enos, the grandson of Adam, and of Zerah, the father of Abraham—the ninth in descent from him.





MOSES was born 1571, and died B. C. 1451. When three months old, his mother, fearing to preserve him alive, placed him in an ark of bulrushes among the flags of the Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter found him, and adopted him as her son. He was instrumental, in the hand of God, in delivering the children of Israel from the land of Egypt. He was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and died in the wilderness, on mount Nebo, 120 years old ; but his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

JOSHUA was born 1532, and died B. C. 1426, aged 110. He accompanied the children of Israel out of Egypt, and succeeded Moses as their leader, and led them into the promised land, after wandering 40 years in the wilderness, and driving out the original inhabitants before them. He and Caleb were the only ones over 21 years when they left Egypt, who entered the land of Canaan. He was a successful leader, and a wise judge. It is recorded of him, that the children of Israel served God all his days.

SAMSON was the strongest man of whom we have any knowledge. He carried away the gates of Gaza upon his shoulders. He slew a lion with nothing in his hand, and 1000 men with the jaw-bone of an ass. When bound with ropes, he brake them like thread. He confessed that his strength lay in his hair, and was shaved by the Philistines in his sleep, who put out his eyes ; but when his hair was grown, and they made sport with him, he pulled down the house, killing 3000 persons, and died B. C. 1113.

SOLOMON was born 1033 years B. C., and died B. C. 975. He built the first temple, which was probably the most splendid structure ever created. "He was wiser than all men." He spake 3000 proverbs, and his songs were 1005 ; and many came to him from the surrounding nations to hear his wisdom. When he became old, he turned away his heart from the God of his fathers, and served other gods ; so that his son was not permitted to rule over all Israel, but ten tribes followed Jeroboam.






HOMER, the most ancient of the Greek poets, was the father of poetry, as Herodotus was of history, and Hippocrates of physic. It is not known where he was born, nor in what age he lived; but it is supposed he lived about 900 years B. C., or 100 years after the building of Solomon's temple. He has been called the most universal genius that has ever been known in the world. The only incontestible works which he has left behind him, are the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey."

LYCURGUS, a celebrated Spartan legislator, flourished about 870 B. C. He made an equal division of land among the people, and ordered all money to be made of iron. The people eat at the public tables, where they sent their food once a month. The children belonged to the state, and were taken from their parents at the age of 7. Having bound his countrymen by an oath to observe his laws till his return, he left Sparta and starved himself to death. The Spartans observed his laws for 500 years.

ROMULUS, the founder of Rome, was born 770, and died 716 years B. C. The city took its name from Romulus. He first peopled it with runaway slaves and criminals, and made it an asylum for them. Rome being destitute of women, Romulus authorized his subjects to seize, by stratagem, the Sabine women for wives, who, in time, became reconciled to their lot, and loved their husbands. Romulus reigned 38 years.

DRACO was a celebrated lawgiver of Athens, and flourished about 600 years B. C. He prepared the first code of written laws which the Athenians possessed. These, on account of their severity, were said to have been *written in blood*. By them, idleness was punished with as much severity as murder, and death was the penalty of both. Such was the inhumanity of these laws, that it prevented their being fully executed. They were repealed by Solon, who adopted a code mild and equitable.






SOLON was one of the seven wise men of Greece, and died at the age of 80, 558 years B. C. He distinguished himself early by the greatness of his courage and the brightness of his parts, which raised him to the government of his country. He commanded that the father who learned his son no trade, could claim no support from him in old age. His laws were adapted to the habits of the people.

CRÆSUS was king of Lydia. He was so rich that, even now, it is common to say "As rich as Cræsus." He showed his riches to Solon, and asked him if he did not think he was the happiest of men. "No man can be deemed happy till his death," said the sage. After a reign of 14 years, he was defeated and taken prisoner by Cyrus, 548 years B. C., and, when about to be burnt, he cried out, "O Solon! Solon!" Cyrus asked the meaning, which, when explained, he set him at liberty.

ZOROASTER was a celebrated Persian philosopher, and the reputed founder of the Magian religion. This sect adored the sun, and paid great veneration to fire; hence they were said to be fire-worshippers. It is said he predicted the coming of the Messiah in plain words; and the wise men from the east, who saw and followed the star of Bethlehem, were his disciples. The priests of the Magi were skilled in Astronomy.

DANIEL, the prophet, flourished about 550 years B. C. He was carried captive to Babylon with the Jews, and found favor with the king, who made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and the chief of the governors. God gave him skill in all learning and wisdom, and understanding in all visions and dreams; so that he interpreted the dreams of the king, and obtained great favor. In the reign of Darius, he was cast into the den of lions; but God closed the lion's mouths, and he was uninjured.





ÆSOP lived in the time of Solon. He was a slave, deformed, and came to a tragical end, being thrown headlong from a rock. He was a man of great genius, and great misfortunes. In order to alleviate the hardships of servitude, he composed those entertaining and instructive fables which have acquired him so much reputation. He had several masters, the last of whom was Idmon, a philosopher, who enfranchised him. He became distinguished for his wisdom.

CONFUCIUS, the celebrated Chinese philosopher, was born in the kingdom of Lu, which is at present the province Chan-tong, 551 years before the birth of Christ. His extensive knowledge, and great wisdom, made him everywhere known. His integrity, and the splendor of his virtues, made him beloved. Kings were governed by his counsels, and the people revered him as a saint. He was one of the brightest characters to be found in Chinese history. He died in the 73d year of his age.

HERODOTUS, the first authentic historian among the Greeks, was born in Asia Minor, about 484 years B. C. In his travels he made himself acquainted with the history of other countries, and arranged the materials into a history, which is still preserved. This he recited to the people at the Olympic games; and it was received with such applause, that the name of the nine Muses was given to the nine books into which it was divided. He is called the "Father of History."

LEONIDAS, king of Sparta, is celebrated for defending, two whole days, the pass of Thermopylæ with 300 men, against 2,000,000 of Persians under Xerxes. When commanded to give up his arms, he replied, "Come and take them." They all fell to a man, having made dreadful havoc of the enemy. His motive was, to show the Persians what kind of an enemy they had to deal with, and to acquire immortal honor; in obedience to a law of his country, which forbade its soldiers to flee from battle.





CYRUS was the founder of the ancient Persian empire, and died 530 years B. C. He conquered the Lydians, and took prisoner their king Cræsus, so celebrated for his vast riches. He conquered Babylon and the greatest part of Asia Minor, and made himself master of Syria and Arabia. He had great virtues as a king, and was beloved not only by his own subjects, but by those of the conquered nations. His empire continued for two hundred years.

ANACREON was a Greek poet, born at Zeos, a seaport of Ionia, about 500 years B. C. He had a most delicate wit, but was too fond of pleasure, to which he devoted nearly all his hours. The manner of his death, which happened at Abdera, is said to have been very extraordinary; for they tell us he was choked with a grape-stone, as he was regaling on some new wine. A small part only of Anacreon's works still remain, and these consist chiefly of bacchanalian songs and love-sonnets.

ÆSCHYLUS was an Athenian tragic poet. Being accused by the Athenians of impiety, for some expressions in some of his pieces, he was condemned to be stoned to death. They were just going to put the sentence in execution, when his brother Aminias, throwing aside his cloak, showed his arm without a hand, which he had lost at the battle of Salamis, in defence of his country. This sight had such an effect upon the judges, that they pardoned Æschylus.

MILTIADES was a famous Athenian general. He died 489 years B. C. He defeated the Persians on the plains of Marathon with only one-tenth of their number. He laid siege to Paros, but being wounded, was obliged to return to Athens. On the accusation of one of the citizens he was tried for treason, and though absolved from the charge, was fined fifty talents. Unable to pay this, he was thrown into prison, where he died of the wounds received in the service of his ungrateful country.



XERXES I. was born 520 years B. C., and was murdered in his bed B. C. 464 years. He was king of Persia, and celebrated for the great army with which he entered Greece, amounting to 5,283,220 souls, exclusive of women and other attendants. When he surveyed this vast multitude, it is said he wept to think that in one hundred years they would all be dead. This multitude was stopped at Thermopylæ by the valor and courage of only 300 Spartans, under king Leonidas.

THEMISTOCLES was born 590 years B. C., and slew himself B. C. 465 years. He was a renowned Athenian, and greatly distinguished himself in the various stations which he filled. He was a general, admiral, and patriot, and gained the battle of Salamis against the Persians; but his country did not remember the blessings which she had received from him, and he was banished by his fellow-citizens. He fled to Persia and took his life, that he might not fight against his country.

SOCRATES, the greatest of all the ancient philosophers, was born 470 years B. C. He was fond of labor, inured to hardships, and was calm and serene in the midst of danger. He bore injuries with patience, which virtue he had sufficient opportunities to practice towards his wife Xantippe, a woman of the most provoking temper. He taught the belief in a first great cause. He was condemned to drink hemlock, and died 400 years before Christ.

PLATO, a celebrated philosopher of Athens, was born 348 years B. C., and died B. C. 267 years. He was eight years a pupil of Socrates. He lectured in the public grove called the Academy, and was attended by crowds of noble and illustrious pupils; and for forty years labored in teaching the sublimest precepts, and composing those dialogues, which have been the admiration of every age. His philosophy was refined, and hence those sentiments which are pure are called Platonic.

89094337318



B89094337318A

TITUS VESPASIAN was one of the the son of Vespasian. He was born 39 A. D. and died 81. He is said once to have exclaimed, "Alas, because he could not recollect that I had done no able good action on that day. He was the commander of the Roman army at the siege of Jerusalem, and was an instrument in the hands of God to punish that guilty city, which he demolished so effectually that "one stone was not left upon another."

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS, the ancient historian of the Jews, was born at Jerusalem in A. D. 37. He studied at Rome, and afterwards bravely defended a small town of Judea against the Romans for seven weeks. The place being taken, he delivered himself up to the Romans and was received into great favor, and accompanied Titus at the siege of Jerusalem, where he alleviated the misfortunes of his country, and obtained the books of his ration. He is considered as a correct historian. He died A. D. 93.

MAHOMET was born A. D. 571, and died A. D. 632. He was an Arabian impostor, and pretending to be inspired, imposed upon the world a book called the Koran, as the word of God. He propagated his religion by the sword, and taught that it was a crime deserving death to profess any other religion. To those who should die fighting against the enemies of the Koran he promised a paradise, where every believer should have thousands of slaves, and every appetite and passion should be fully gratified.

Many distinguished individuals flourished in ancient times, of whom nothing is now known with any degree of certainty, but that they were born and died. The splendid achievements which immortalized their names, and rendered them illustrious among their contemporaries, are now forgotten and buried in oblivion. And thus it will soon be with all the living. The places which now know us will soon know us again no more forever, and *our names* will have perished from off the earth.